

Protection of interest of unorganised workers

4497. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have sought assistance of the Planning Commission to provide fund for introducing scheme to give social security and to protect interest of the unorganised workers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) Planning Commission's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to seek assistance of the Planning Commission to provide funds for introducing a scheme to give social security and to protect the interests of the unorganized workers as such in the country. However, a proposal to introduce a social security scheme for agricultural workers is being examined in consultation with the concerned Central Ministries/Departments including Planning Commission.

Seminar on industry and employment problems

† 4498. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the Seminar held recently in Kolkata on industry and employment problems;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the details and outcome of the discussions held in this seminar;
- (c) whether in view of the strong demands being raised, Government intend to amend the existing labour laws in order to make them more effective; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The Indian Chamber of Commerce organised a unique interaction between the senior representatives of the Chamber and the Heads of the National Trade Unions at Kolkata on 30.01.2001 to discuss various issues pertaining to enhancing economic growth with greater thrust on employment generation. As per the Press release issued by the Chamber on 31.01.2001 at the end of the deliberations, it was decided to chalk out a common action agenda which could be further discussed between Industry and the Trade Unions. With the main objective of creating employment, the two sides agreed to discuss the following issues:

- * Economic growth with social justice, including import policy, levies, anti-dumping mechanism
- * Flexibility in approach, subject to discussions
- * Review of Labour Laws
- * Informal sector to be covered under social security
- * Role of Government in promoting employment generation through higher public spending.

Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process and amendment/fresh legislations are made depending on the results of the review. A large number of labour laws have been framed over a period of time to address a number of issues and problems that assumed importance and attracted pointed attention at a particular point of time. In order to ensure both consistency of labour laws with the general changes taking place in the economic policy and to provide for health, safety and welfare of the working class, the Second National Commission on Labour has been set up as per resolution issued on 15.10.1999 which will dispassionately look into these aspects and suggest appropriate changes in the labour legislation/labour policy. As per its terms of reference, the Commission would suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector and an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector.